

WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL MOTORCYCLE ASSOCIATION
ISSUE 1/2021

Hayley Bell
WIMA Lifetime Member
and Founder of Women
Riders World Relay (WRWR)



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WIMA INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT WELCOMING MESSAGE

BY ZARA STRANGE



Welcome to the first WIMA International newsletter, at least the first in many years. We now have a membership of over 4,000 women and are in some of the world's most inspiring countries. This though brings with it several difficulties about

making sure that we all feel that we are a part of this great organisation that celebrated our 70th anniversary last year. Actually, and hopefully, most of the celebrations are still to come, due to COVID putting big events on hold for both national and international groups.

The idea of the newsletter is to feature the people, places and events that are important to all of us, not just the well-known riders but also the ones who work hard but often unseen behind the scenes of our national divisions. We also want to highlight places and events that are important to you so, as these newsletters evolve over the next couple of years, we will be relying upon all of you to contribute pictures and stories that are important to you and which you feel will be interesting to members in countries on the other side of the world, from other cultures and different life experiences. We aim to produce one newsletter every 3 months. We hope that by posting the newsletter as web pages, members will be able to translate it into your own language using Google, Microsoft or similar services. International Public Relations Officer and newsletter editor, Liv Seuring, has put a lot of effort into producing this newsletter with the very able support of Mihaela Hodivoianu, International Vice President so thank you to both of you. Please send all your stories and photographs to e-mail [newsletter\(at\)wimaworld.org](mailto:newsletter(at)wimaworld.org).

The other members of the International Officer team are Karin Willers looking after all things to do with the website, Nicole Peters looking after Social Media, Pirjo Kivimäki in charge of our archives, Chris-Maria Baumer running the online merchandise marketplace and last but not least, treasurer Maris Varik making sure that all of your subscriptions are wisely spent and properly recorded. We are all here to make sure this organisation works well so please tell us when we get things right, when we get things wrong or just because you have something interesting to share. Pirjo already has a fantastic archive of old WIMA photographs but is keen to have more in digital form that can be e-mailed to her. Karin and Pirjo are working on getting these archives on-line so that national presidents can access them on your behalf. Please add a description of whatever you send – and please remember to get the permission of people in the article or photograph that you are sending, unless they have either died or if photographs are of a crowd or large group of people. All of our contact e-mail addresses can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

As I sit and write this, many of us are wondering whether or not we will be able to attend the International Rally in Netherlands this year, there are risks that we will all have to consider and not just about catching or passing on this awful infection but also the financial risk if the organising team or individual members have to cancel. Having communicated with Sandra Ilbrink, National President of WIMA Netherlands, I believe that she and her team have come to a good compromise for all members planning to attend, without risking their own division funds or making the event too expensive for most people to be able to afford.



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BY ZARA STRANGE

Once we know how many people are booked, then Mihaela and I will sit down and work out what we can all do to keep events and rallies alive for all those who cannot get to Grolloo this year. On-line chats and meetings are all we have just now but WIMA is all about gathering and riding together, about sharing our experiences and supporting each other. Hopefully Grolloo will signal our return to better times.

Over the past 12 months, in between lock-downs, I have only managed to fit in one WIMA event and 2 meet-ups with other members. In May I met with



Scottish region member Kerry Wright and WIMA Pakistan National President, Guliafshan Tariq in Braemar, in July I caught up with WIMA GB acting National President, Caroline Lunnon in Perth whilst she was touring around UK.). August

was the first proper WIMA GB event that I managed to attend,

the west country Cream Tea Tour from Launceston to Lands End which started in



very hot sunshine, quickly turning to thick cold sea fog until the sun broke through just as we were eating our cream tea picnic overlooking the sea at the end of the day.



Finally, in September, I squeezed in a women's off-road training day, on Royal Enfield Himalayan motorcycles. The two group events included several adventure riders that I had either read about or seen on Facebook and the internet, it was an absolute pleasure to meet these women, thank you. My thanks also go to the WIMA members who gave their time and effort to organise both days.

At the moment, I look out of my window at the driving rain and wonder what events



I will get to enjoy in 2021. Whatever I do, I hope that it involves meeting and sharing good company with other WIMA women.

Best wishes and please keep in touch with each other.

Zara Strange
WIMA International President

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INTERVIEW W/ SANDRA GOMEZ CANTERO



BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS

Sandra Gomez (born 1993 in Madrid, Spain), is a Spanish Women's International motorcycle trials rider. She is the first female rider to finish the Gold Class at the Redbull Romaniacs in 2020.

Tell us a little about yourself. How old are you and where do you live?

My name is Sandra Gomez Cantero I'm 28 years old, I'm from Cercedilla which is a small village in the mountains near of Madrid (Spain). I love travelling and I am a sport lover. I consider myself a dreamer, but also a person who works for their dreams to make them happen.

How old were you when you rode a motorcycle for the first time?

I was three, I don't remember... but that's what my parents said hahaha

Did it hook you right away?

For some years... but when I was around 7, I was more focused on my skiing career, I wanted to be professional skier. When I was about nine years old I had to resign due to monetary reasons, so I continued playing with the motorcycle and racing regionals.

What was the first bike you owned?

A Merlin. It was from my big brother but even older than him.

What do you ride now?

Hard Enduro, Superenduro and Enduro with Husqvarna 300 2T and Trials with 280cc TRRS.

What is your dream bike?

I haven't got one, but I am super happy with the two motorcycles I've got now. I'm still dreaming about more help from the factories...

How did you get into trial riding?

My Dad was a trainer and also because of my brother, who is four years older and a rider himself.



Do you prefer gravel over tarmac?

I always prefer offroad.

What does trial riding mean to you?

Most of me is Trial. Just until some days ago, Trial was everything in my house. It was the sport where the family spend time together and Trial was the sport where I learned the importance of life. Also later, the Enduro showed me different points of view and more, but this two modalities are my teachers of life.

Is there something you would tell your younger (riding) self if you could?

Hahaha nice one. There are a lot of things, but honestly maybe I only would say: Enjoy it even more and just be you as you are. I am sure I did a lot of mistakes and I could win more races in the past, but I am very happy also where I am.

Tell us a good crash story!

In offroad there are lots of crashes but yeah some of them are funny, too. As one last year in ISDE Portugal where I crashed into the sand and I couldn't see where the bike or where the way of the crosstes was. I had sand everywhere on my body, the amount that came off with my cloth when I took them off afterwards was unbelievable.

Do you have any (riding) idols?

I feel lucky because the referent of the girls in off-road is Laia Sanz. I learned a lot from her and I consider Laia as a friend. Also I love the style of Lampkin years ago and now in Hard Enduro, I like the style of Letti. And of course as a big brother and similar on my style I admire my brother Alfredo.



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INTERVIEW W/ SANDRA GOMEZ CANTERO

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



What does your perfect riding day look like?

Starting home dry on the mountains and change the weather to rain. Some uphill, some rocks, some rivers, forests... Always in the mountains and with some friends!

What was your best riding experience?

Redbull Romaniacs 2020

Is there something on your riding bucket list?

Dakar is around there.

How do you feel as a female in the still male dominated biker world? What's your experience?

I feel there are differences and I think it is important for us to show presence and interest the motorcycle industry because it still isn't on the same level. When I put my helmet on in a race I don't think I am a girl - and I could not ask for better conditions for me. I know how to race and I am there because I want to. I play with my physical conditions as I am not a boy and I haven't got the same power to push in hard enduro or the same explosive reactions for trials - but I'm doing it anyway.



How do you cope with being nervous before a competition? Do you have any rites or a lucky charm?

No, I just think how I would like to finish the race and what would be the next step I have in front of me.

Do you do other sports? Or what do you do to stay fit?

I love other sports! I love skiing, especially in the mountains, (mountain) biking, swimming, climbing, crossfit, running,...

How did you feel when you became Spanish champion for the first time?

I remember I worked a lot for that title and I had a very good rival. The year before I did very bad so I trained a lot and changed my mind to be a rider who enjoys the races.

What else do you want to achieve? What are your plans for the future?

You never know what is coming but I dream to have more help or sponsors and maybe one day I can focus 100% in races (now I am teacher of motorcycles, stunt driver, firewoman student, director of Motorcycle Commission of women in Spain,...). But speaking about races I would like to finish Redbull Erzberg Rodeo and win a title in Trials World Championship. Maybe one day the Dakar, if somebody propose it to me haha.



Is there something you want to tell the motorcycle industry in general?

A lot, but sometimes we are scary about it. I asked some people why they don't help girls. It's about the money, girls won't buy enough bikes so the industry doesn't need women to publish it. I think it is different. First I have a lot of followers which are men, second there are a lot of women around the world riding motorcycles and would be more if the industry watch it and do specifically things for it and it's a good "place" to grow and discover.

Do you have a message for our female bikers?

If you have big dreams don't think they are bigger than you, just work for them. And always enjoy what you are doing.

*Thank you for the interview!
Gracias por la entrevista!*

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MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAM



Zara Strange
International President

I learned to ride and passed my motorcycle test in 2006 with the sole purpose of cutting my daily commuting time but 2 years later, after reading a

magazine article written by then WIMA GB National President, I discovered and joined WIMA. Living in NE Scotland there were limited opportunities to meet up with other members but I followed their adventures in the monthly newsletter. I managed to attend my first group weekend in 2010 that was held in Wells-next-the-Sea, 775 kilometres away. This was all new to me but I was made very welcome, so much so that soon after I ventured to my first overseas rally in Netherlands and also organised several events in Scotland. Wherever I went with WIMA I was made welcome, despite language differences and so I discovered the benefits of membership at a local and international level. Now I have WIMA friends across the world. It has been this wonderful mix of local, national and international women and events that has brought me to this exciting challenge of being International President, thank you to everyone who I have met and who has helped me along the way.



Mihaela Hodivoianu
Int. Vice President

I would introduce myself as an enthusiastic motorcycle woman rider with over 10 years of riding experience. I enjoy riding so much that I

prefer it as a means of transportation whenever I can: from daily commuting to work to long touring trips. I've actually visited most of the European countries on my lovely 2 wheels. For me riding is also a nice way of making new friends. I find it rewarding at a very personal level to let myself be inspired by others and also be an inspiration to younger women as well, to go out there and chase our dreams, to live a brave life, to face our fears and empower each other as often as we can. I am an action person and I like to get things done. I discovered WIMA in 2017 and Romania became a division of it during the summer of the same year. That was a great year as we also had the chance to join the International Rally in Finland with a group of national members. We had the pleasure to meet many women riders around the world and this global community amazed me with its strength & sense of unity. It is simply beautiful to see WIMA expanding and I am honoured to be part of this process.



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MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAM



Liv Seuring
International PR-Officer

I got my motorcycle license in 2008, after being pillion a few times. I enjoyed riding a lot, but got bored always following the same roads. After a few years

of not being an active rider, the bug bit me again, when my boyfriend had the mad idea of crossing Vietnam from South to North on two small bikes („It's so authentic, Livi!). So after three years of not having even sat on a bike, I suddenly found myself on a down-ridden 100cc Honda Win in the busy streets of Saigon. But then, just a day later, it came to me like an enlightenment: THIS is it, this is my kind of riding. Traveling, seeing new roads every day, meeting new people, diving into foreign cultures. Since then I often tried to leave the busy roads, which lead me into falling in love with offroad riding more or less voluntarily ;-). I didn't have a big bike community around me in the past. This changed when I started working for Women Riders World Relay in 2018. A little later, I got a WIMA member, joined the team and my sisterhood grew even bigger. It's amazing to have so many like minded women around the globe!



Nicole Peters
Int. Social Media Officer

Since 2013 motorcycling is my biggest hobby and together with travelling it has become my purpose in life. Exactly this connection I found with the WIMA

and the long way from east Germany to my first WIMA in England was as much the goal as the rally and camping there in 2019. Also a special highlight was my trip to the Himalayas in 2017 and in 2021 I would like to make a trip to Morocco on a 28 year old motorcycle.



CALL FOR CONTENT!
Are you a writer? Do you have moto-
news or travel stories to tell? We are
always looking for inspirational content
to share with all WIMA members.
Reach out via
newsletter@wimaworld.com

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MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAM



Chris-Maria Baumer
Merchandise Officer

Since 2014, I am a WIMA Austria member and I fell in love with the WIMA atmosphere immediately. Until then I rode solo, or together with male groups and I

and I really appreciate the different riding motto. Has it been: "Lets get there, as fast as possible", its now: "OK, lets have fun, and enjoy the moment" I enjoy it so much to get in touch with other national divisions at Rallies and meetings. Therefore I am determined to fulfill the role as merchandising Officer to the best of my knowledge and I am proud to bring in my former experience in this role for WIMA International. I hope to meet you on one of the next Rallies, as always: In good spirit!



Maris Varik
International Treasurer

I joined WIMA Estonia in 2009, having done my A category licence in 2008. WIMA ladies in Estonia are a tight group of very different individuals with various

backgrounds and occupations. My first WIMA International Rally was in Poland in 2014 and after that I have been to as many Rallies as I can, because I just love the atmosphere of these. My first motorcycle was a Moto Guzzi, after that I have had Harley Davidson different models and a BMW GS. I usually travel by bike in my own or the neighbouring countries, my farthest destination being Croatia. Although small, Estonia offers also a lot in summer and my favourite pastime is to ride on our beautiful small countryside roads, visiting events or friends.



WIMA Merchandise Shop
<https://wima.merchandise.zone/>



...and more!

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MEET OUR INTERNATIONAL TEAM



Pirjo Kivimäki
International Historian

I have been a WIMA Finland member since 1999 and have been riding my motorbike for about 20 years. Annually I ride between 10 –20 000 km,

mainly around Europe. I have attended all WIMA Rallies in Europe since 2004 Borculo, Netherlands and Japan Rally in 2010. I fell in love with the atmosphere of WIMA World immediately at the first touch. I have been a Vice President at WIMA Finland government during 2007 and 2008, member of organisation team of the International WIMA rally 2008 and again as a Vice President at the WIMA Finland government from the year 2011 I am living in the south of Finland but I am spending a lot of my time in Germany. I am proud to do International Historian work for WIMA.



Karin Willers
Webmaster

I have been a WIMA member since 2001, which was also the year I was at my first WIMA, namely the WIMA in Andalusia. Since then, I attended most of the

WIMA meetings in the last years. Currently I drive a BMW R 1200 GS, riding between 8000 to 10000 km per year. I always try to combine a WIMA rally with a longer vacation, on the motorbike of course! The most memorable WIMA rallies of the last years were the WIMA in England 2011 where we performed a round trip through Scotland and the WIMA in Sweden 2015 which was our starting point for a tour to the North Cape. A WIMA rally is always a good occasion to meet old friends and to enjoy a week in a new country in the community of women, which share the same spirit.



GO TEAM!

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WIMA RIDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



Hayley Bell

WIMA Honorary Lifetime Member since 2019, Founder of Women Riders World Relay (WRWR) & AMA Motorcyclist of the year 2019

How old are you and where do you live?

I'm based in Warrington, North West England and I've just turned "dirty thirty" (which I'm taking as the decade of enduro riding!)

How old were you when you rode a motorcycle for the first time?

I've dabbled on a few scooters in my late teens as it was the best way for getting about in the countries I lived in but it wasn't until I was 23 that I threw my leg over a motorcycle.

Did it hook you right away?

It sure did! So much so, that I started learning to ride 3 months before my 24th birthday. In the UK you need to be 24 or have ridden for a period of time to sit your "big bike test". It hooked me that much that I paid for all my instruction and assessments twice in the space of 3 months to allow me an extra few bhp on the road leading up to my 24th birthday... in hindsight, I could have bought much more coffee and cake with this money...

What was the first bike you owned?

My first bike was a Kawasaki ER6N in black and red. It was a valuable learning bike, but it wasn't until I got my R6 5eb 6 months later that I understood the whole "gelling with a bike" thing. When I rode the R6 for the first time, it was like the bike was doing everything I asked the ER6N to do with grace rather than resentment! I still have the R6 to date. I crashed the ER6N into the side of a caravan that pulled out on me and it went on to live a better life as a stunt bike!

What do you ride now?

Right now I have a couple of bikes; My latest is the Triumph 1200 Explorer XC - what a dream to ride that is! I've historically been sports and off road biased, not to mention older carbureted bikes, so it's a real treat to have a "clock" on the bike and "heated seats"! I also love the fact that the Triumph is a bit of a challenge for me. I'm 5'6 and weigh 50kg. The Triumph is over 6 times my weight fully loaded and I'm really enjoying the slow speed and manoeuvring challenges that come with that!

I mentioned earlier I still have my Yamaha R6 or "Roxy" as I call her. She's a 1999 carbureted, indestructible pocket rocket of fun! I've written her off twice and yet, here she still stands, starts on the button every time and there's nothing better than the sound of her whine on full chaff! I have a KTM 250 Freeride for Enduro riding. This bike, for anybody who is looking to get into enduro, is exactly where I'd start you off... granted, I'm also biased to a 2 stroke, which is a bit like marmite, you either love them or you hate them, but it has the added advantage of being super light and slightly lower than most other off road rides. It's SUPER pokey and a dream to ride! There's only 2 downfalls, not with the bike, but with the design. 1) KTM decided to only have an electric start, no kick start and 2) They must know us enduro riders like a fettle because to get to the battery you have to take the entire rear shock off, meaning a disassembly of the majority of the rear!

Lastly, I have my not so trusty love child of Bet Lynch and the Amazon rainforest wildlife... my show stopping GPZ500. I bought this baby for £200 to perform the charity run "longest day up" which is a form of banger race from Lands End to John o' Groats in under 24 hours on A roads. She's still got sequins in the carbs and engine as we speak and is awaiting some much needed Hayley love!

What is your dream bike?

I genuinely don't have one, I love variety, so my dream bike would be the option to ride a different one every week! I love the "bonding period" of getting a new bike and learning its little niggles and tweaks!



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WIMA RIDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



How would you describe your favorite style of riding – eg sport, off-road, adventure?

Enduro riding for me is more of a ball ache to organise, but with more of a reward at the end. It's dangerous to do alone, so you organise a group of you to head out, as with all off road bikes, ultimately somebody bins it or breaks down, so you spend time fixing the bikes, you have to trailer them to places etc etc so it's a bit more of a faff compared to throwing your leg over and going, but the reward more than makes up for it when you're sat at the top of a hill physically exhausted, wide eyed and beaming a face full of mud at the end of the day. It's where I most challenge myself and where I most improve my riding, that's what I love so much about it!

Is there something you would tell your younger (riding) self if you could?

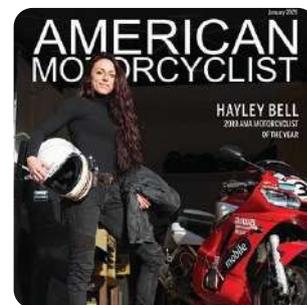
I'd stay silent because I know whatever I told my younger self, my younger self would go out and do the opposite haha! No I am more than happy with my riding history, crashes and all! It's developed me into a confident, safe and well rounded rider! My only regret is not starting sooner!



Have you ever had a breakdown, accident or other incident that turned out okay but has affected the way that you ride ever since eg pre-ride check, try to avoid certain situations or ride a different kind of bike?

Absolutely! You learn from your mistakes! The most impacting one I suppose was the fact that I have had 2 cars (one a Citroen Picasso and the other occasion a landrover with a caravan on) pull out on me. They both looked at me, but didn't "see" me. Both incidents occurred within a 12 month period and I was very lucky to come away with just a few broken bones. Naturally, this made me VERY conscious of junctions and roundabouts, basically EVERY ROAD. I got straight back in the saddle as soon as injuries permitted but after...

the second crash I was really shook up. I was devastated in fact. Riding had already become my whole world and most pleasurable pursuit. I remember getting really upset thinking I'm never going to be able to ride again, I'm letting fear in and it's winning. That's when I started off road riding. For me, the fear was entirely revolving around vehicles pulling out, so I eliminated all vehicles and took to off road. New fears crept in with this learning curve but I knew if I didn't squash them one by one, I'd give into it and that would be the end of that Hayley may as well get your bloody knitting needles out!



Do you have any motorcycling heros?

I find hero's in people pushing their own boundaries, the regular folk. There are amazing riders around the world who have skills one could only dream of, but the people I admire and idolise are those that I can relate to. People like Megan Griffiths, Maral Yazarloo, Behnaz Shafiei, Steph Jeavons, Claire Lomas, these are just a handful of people whom, if you haven't read up on them, are well worth the read!

Do you have a riding bucket list?

Yep but it's very simple. Ride as many times as I can, in as many places as I can via as many styles of riding as I can. I'd love to do a world tour on road and off, but as the old saying goes, it's not the destination, it's the journey. I just love to explore, wether that's 50 miles from home or 500 miles.

What does your perfect riding day look like?

Oooh I like this question, this is taking my brain away on a miserable Tuesday lockdown! Perfect day would be getting up nice and early, bike packed up, all the camping gear, my dog on the rear, suns out, it's a toasty 25 degrees, the tarmacs sticky and there's a cocktail of snakey pass's ahead. My best riding days are ones...



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WIMA RIDER IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



...that challenge me so let's say it's a full day, a tiring day with a couple of mishaps that work out just right in the end. A packed lunch and plenty of roadside stop-offs for a camping stove coffee. Dramatic, ever changing scenery with lots of fellow bikers playing out to give a nod to and top it all off with a beach to camp at and an open fire pit under the stars in the middle of but fuck nowhere. Yep. Couldn't ask for a better day, that's my happiness.

What was your best riding experience?

I'd have to say the USA legs of WRWR. We did 10k miles in 2 weeks and it was the experience of a lifetime. I love that zone you get in when you are touring of just, pack up, ride, unpack, repeat. It's like your heading somewhere and nowhere at the same time. It's funny, I've never been able to relax on typical "holidays" I have to be constantly on the move. The USA had SUCH dramatic scenery, constantly changing conditions and it was a real challenge. One day we were riding in -10 and literally 2 days after, 40 degrees in the desert, it's nuts. To experience all different states, cultures, people, and lifestyles by bike has been an absolute dream and one I'll never forget.

How do you feel as a female in the still male dominated biker world? What's your experience?

Like many others, I have had good and bad experiences. The good for me, have far outweighed the bad. I am very proud of our biking community, our family is unique. I've experienced the kindest of souls, the most helpful and welcoming community and I've also experienced "frustrations" shall we say... there's always an uncle knobhead in every family right? How I "feel" is no different to any rider. I ride a bike, therefore I'm a biker, I don't consider "myself" different to any other helmet I see on the road. What I want for our community, our family, is to open up the flood gates. To encourage more women into the industry and for us to all fall under one category. Bikers.

Is there something you want to tell the motorcycle industry in general?

I don't like to "tell" anybody anything, I like to "show". The more we see and experience in one another's shoes, the better understanding we have. The only thing I will say is I'm so glad to have so many organisations coming to me for open and honest conversations about how to improve things... that's worth 1000x more than any social media post or "check box" ticked and I will always have time for these conversations.

Do you ever get nervous before an event or long journey? Do you have any good-luck routines or a lucky charm?

100%. I suffer extensively, believe it or not, with anxiety. Those close to me know I can have an "attack" going pillion, going up a mountain pass, before a big journey, meeting new people, on track, even going out for a meal or sitting in a cafe, the list I goes on. I'm not superstitious so don't have a routine or good luck charm as such, all I do is try to challenge myself through nerves and anxiety. I'm very much an all or nothing type person, there's no in between, so I'm very conscious that if I give into fear, it's a slippery slope downhill. I sing a lot too. Badly mind, but loud and proud! That helps calm me in sticky situations!



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BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



What else do you want to achieve? What are your plans for future?

My only goal in life is happiness. I've found the most happiness I've ever experienced in helping the motorcycling community, so I reckon I will stick at that ;) As far as plans go, I have a couple of things up my sleeve, though they are early days, I'm currently writing a children's book called "Musty the Rusty Motorbike" which is all about a little girl and her heap of junk that takes her on magical adventures... sound familiar? I want to enlighten children, specifically girls, that they have options outside of dolls and ballet.



Do you do other sports? Or what do you do to stay fit?

I am a qualified windsurfing and sailing instructor, I snowboard and run, but the real thing that keeps me fit is my dogs Bista and Oso. No matter how tired I am at the end of a day, that look of "is it walkies time now mum?" Gets me every time! It's pretty hard to tire out a 50kg German shepherd and a scatty Welsh Collie so they keep me active too!

Do you have a message for our international WIMA members?

Rather than a message, I'll leave you all with my favourite quote that I try to live by. "A ship in the harbour is safe, but that's not what ships are built for". Ride on ladies!



*Thank you so much
for the interview!*

You want to know more about Hayley?



Women Riders
World Relay
on Facebook



Women Riders
World Relay
on Instagram



Women Riders
World Relay
Website



Hayley Bell -
Motorcyclist
of the year 2019
AMA Website



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WELCOME NEW DIVISIONS!

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



Canada

National President: Maria

WIMA Canada is here! Co-founded by Angela Dianne Griffin of Nova Scotia and Dianne Best of Manitoba, these ladies are well experienced riders and eager to support all women in the motorcycling community. From new riders to seasoned ones, from sport bikes to cruisers and from sea to shining sea, we will represent our proud Canadian heritage as well as our individual diversity. Whether riding in the East Coast of Newfoundland, the West Coast of British Columbia, or anywhere in between, WIMA Canada will strive to bring all women riders together as one great Sisterhood. Women now make up 12% of the riding community in Canada's nearly 3 billion dollar motorcycle industry! And Canadian women are claiming July 17th, 2016 as National Women's Ride Day! Come join us!



Italy

National President: Rosaria

Rosaria is the president of the group as well as the national president of WIMA. In 2015 she became the host of the Distinguished Gentleman's ride of Roma city and in 2016 she founded a group of women called Donne Special without any obligations, just the pleasure to be together. Donne Special is about the special woman that decided to jump on a bike to change her life, to live in a different world with herself. She also created an annual event "Babes Great Escape". The group is 44 ladies now but growing each year.



WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



WELCOME NEW DIVISIONS!

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



Mexico

National President: Angelica

WIMA México is an organization of women with common purposes: ride while enjoying our motorcycle, our freedom and our friends. We believe a woman is an amazing being and women together... reach for the impossible. We welcome all women that want to belong, share their experience and create a strong network of friends who share the same hobby all over the world.



Ukraine

National President: Alena

In Ukraine about 5-7% of bikers are moto ladies. They choose various types of motorcycles: adventure touring bikes, choppers, cruisers, dirt bikes, naked bikes, sport bikes etc. Women ride motorcycles with great pleasure. They ride bikes to get to work, to meet with friends, for leisure. They prefer travelling by motorcycles. Also, nowadays many women-passengers are interested in two wheels. Alena, former WRWR ambassador, is trusted with the role of uniting the Ukraine women riders and building WIMA Ukraine. If you want to become a WIMA Ukraine member get in touch with her!



WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



WELCOME NEW DIVISIONS!

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



Liechtenstein
National President: Sonja

Although Liechtenstein it is the sixth-smallest country in the world, with its picturesque castles and beautiful landscape it is perfect for motorcycling! And Sonja Grass, the National President, is confident that she will gather a beautiful group of ladies in this new division. Sonja was born in Austria but has been living in Liechtenstein for 25 years now. She has been riding for more than 34 years and loves her bike, a Harley Davidson EVO Fist 1340. Her inspiration was WRWR (April 18th 2019) which she found to be a fascinating event and led her to the idea to found WIMA division and make the country part of the world of women riders. This is the 38th division and we trust that we will continue to grow and support women riders around the world.



Nicaragua
National President: Yolanda

We welcome WIMA Nicaragua, our 39th division and the second division in Central America after Mexico. Yolanda Acuña, the National President works for an organization called Project Miriam whose one objective is to contribute to the integral development of women and promote the right to education and a life free of violence. Yolanda and her team of six ladies aims to motivate, encourage women to ride and break traditional belief that women should not ride.



WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



WELCOME NEW DIVISIONS!

BY TEAM PUBLIC RELATIONS



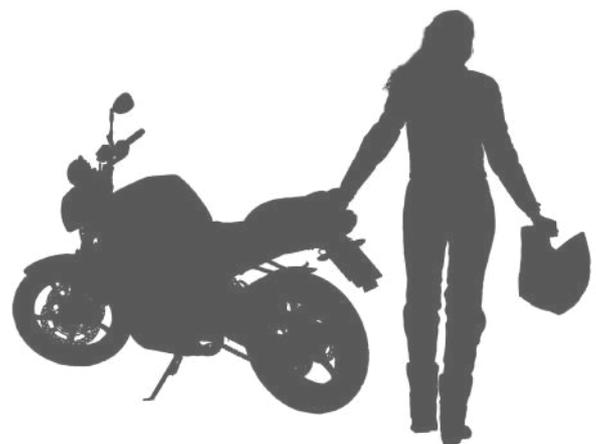
Ghana

National President: Cathie aka Firefly

Ghana joined our community in January 2021. The national president is Cathie Lajide, known in the biking community as FIREFLY. She has been a rider since 2015 with an impressive track record. She is the first Ghanaian and Female Biker to receive the Nigerian's Tough Tourer's award and celebrated as the longest distance rider to both ROAD ROAR and CALABAR FESTIVAL. Cathie is also the founder of the first all-female motorcycle club in Ghana, Blueflame MC, and together with the female bikers in Accra and support of the biking community in Ghana launched the Ghana Chapter of Female Bikers Initiative (FBI) a charitable initiative created for the awareness creation and screening of women for Breast and Cervical Cancer - the first event took place in August 2019 where about 100 women were screened.

Ghana is the second country, with the largest number of Female Bikers in West Africa and with WIMA's presence in Ghana, this is bound to encourage our neighboring countries, to learn more about WIMA and hopefully, join the sisterhood.

The number of female bikers and enthusiasts are gradually on the rise and will greatly benefit from the network opportunity presented by WIMA and learn from our sisters across the world. WIMA national division in Ghana will also give Female Bikers in Ghana the platform to share our experiences.

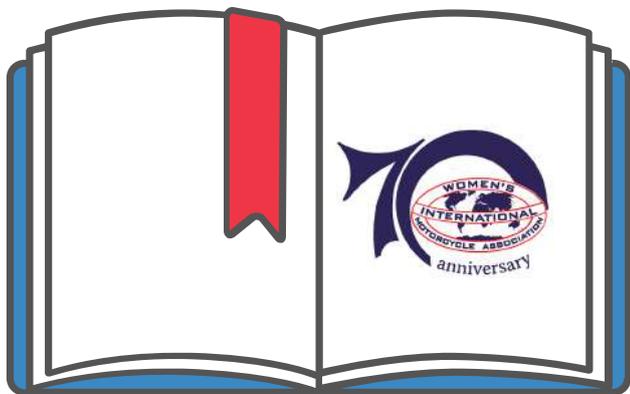


WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE WIMA 70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

BY ÅSA ÖHQVIST & SHEONAGH RAVENSDALE



As you all know, the history of WIMA goes way back - we're the first ever international organisation for women with an interest in motorcycles. This is an important legacy to document, which is why Sheonagh Ravensdale, member of WIMA GB and former international president, initiated the project to document WIMA history and the present structure of the organisation in an anniversary booklet. The idea came from the 30th Anniversary Booklet written by Frances Popley in 1980. This booklet goes under the casual name "The Pearl Booklet" as 30 years is a pearl jubilee in Britain. Along the way, Åsa Öhqvist, member of WIMA Sweden and also former international president, was recruited to help co-edit and research information on what has proven to be an ever-growing project. There is just so much that needs to be documented to do our WIMA history justice and as WIMA has grown considerably the last few years, we think it is important that the history is documented and available for all.

So what are Sheonagh and Åsa working on?

The 70th Anniversary Booklet will have a history section followed by descriptions of the individual divisions, the rallies, the international leaders though history and the current WIMA government.

The founders, Louise Scherbyn and Theresa Wallach, will be introduced and there will be a section about Ellen Pfeiffer, the award in her honour and all the recipients of it. Sheonagh and Åsa are working hard to collect and put together the material and need everyone's help getting information. The Anniversary Booklet will hopefully be available for distribution in time for the International Rally, depending on the help received from contributors, i.e. National Divisions and individual members. It will be available as a free PDF for all with an option for national divisions to have it printed as a paper booklet (it will be made to printable quality).

Here is a sample of what you'll be able to find in the booklet:

WIMA – songs and rally memories

Many WIMA members would agree that the international rally is the highlight of the year and a fantastic opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones. In our capacity as editors of the 70th anniversary booklet, Sheonagh and I are researching WIMA material and we have found some amazing songs written exclusively for WIMA and sung at international rallies.



WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE WIMA 70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

BY ÅSA ÖHQVIST & SHEONAGH RAVENSDALE

We start with the oldest one, which is in French. Chantal, former national president of WIMA France, remembers this song vividly and claims she can still sing it - let's sing it with her at the next international rally! It was written specially by Agnes Acker for the French international rally in 1974. This is the first known song about WIMA and the lyrics below are copied from the Pearl Booklet.

WIMA SONG

La WIMA c'est une terrible association
Rassemblant des filles de tous les horizons
Demoiselles brunes sur Yamaha
Demoiselles blondes sur Pannonia
A moto pas de donger que je m'ennuie
Peu de frein, mais beaucoup gaz et vas-y
La griserie des virages
La bagarre quand il pleut.

Ma Suzuki pleine de fougue et d'ardeur
Rugissante etincelante ma Honda
BMW d'acier et de douceur
MZ Jawa de mon coeur
Quand un homme contre lui me serre fort
Me disant comma Tarzan "Je suis tres fort"
Moi je lui demande innocement
"Sauvais-tu changer un segment?"

A ROUGH TRANSLATION

WIMA is a terrific Association
Gathering girls of different backgrounds
Brunettes on Yamahas
Blondes on Pannonias
On a motorbike boredom is kept at bay
A little braking, a lot of throttle and let's go
The headiness of bends
The fight when it rains.

My Suzuki full of vigour and passion
Roaring and scintilating is my Honda
BMW of steel and gentleness
MZ and Jawa are my loves
When a man holds me close against him
Saying, like Tarzan "I am very strong",
Innocently I ask him "Can you change a
piston ring?"

Sheonagh and I are taking the Pearl Booklet as a departure point for the new 70th anniversary booklet - but we need help from national divisions and members to fill the pages with WIMA history. We are devoting one chapter to songs and one to rallies from 1958 and onwards. Did you know that WIMA has held an international rally every year since 1958, with only two exceptions? In 1962 no rally was held as too many women were either pregnant or had small children and in 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic caused the German WIMA rally to be cancelled.

The next song was written by Monika Greiderer for the Rally WIMA Fantastica in Austria 1999, organised by WIMA Germany. The scan of the original song leaflet is kindly provided by Verena, former National President of WIMA Germany. She has told us that there wasn't a trash night or national division day at this rally, so this song was probably performed at the welcome-evening. (You can find the original song document on the next page)



WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE WIMA 70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

BY ÅSA ÖHQVIST & SHEONAGH RAVENSDALE

WIMA-LIED 1999

BITTE MITSINGEN!
GAUDI MUSS SEI!
.....OH MEI!

DAS MOTORRAD STEHT BEPACKT VORM HAUS
ZELT UND SCHLAFSACK SIND OBENDRAUF
DEN MOTOR AN --- JETZT GEHT ES LOS
ZUR WIMA -- WIRD GEFahr'N

SOLO

WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

MUSIK SOLO

WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

JEDES JAHR IN EINEM ANDEREN LANd
DIE WIMA DIE IST INTERNATIONAL
OST UND WEST, NORD UND SÜD OHNE
GRENZEN WIRD GEFahr'NI
SPRECHEN WIR AUCH VIELE SPRACHEN HIER
DER MOTORSOUND IST INTERNATIONAL.
FRAUEN DIE MOTORRAD FAHR'N
VERSTEHEN SICH AUF JEDEN FALL!

SOLO

1.
WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

MUSIK SOLO

2.
WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

3.
WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

4.
WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'N

EVERYBODY

5.
WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, WIR SIND WIEDER DA
EINE WOCHe FUN ERLEBEN
MIT VIELEN, VIELEN FRAUN'

EVERYBODY
(der Musik anpassen)

WIMA, WIMA, WIMA, ES IST WUNDERBAR
KOMMEN ALLE ALLE WIEDER
GANZ BESTIMMT IM NÄCHSTEN JAHR

EVERYBODY

WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



THE WIMA 70TH ANNIVERSARY BOOKLET

BY ÅSA ÖHQVIST & SHEONAGH RAVENSDALE

This last song was written for the WIMA rally in Borculo, the Netherlands, in 2004 and it was shared with us in the WIMA World discussion group by Linda de Vries, member of WIMA NL. She also provided the photo:



Does anyone know any other WIMA songs? We'd love to know about them! We would also love to know your best rally memory and we are looking for pictures that are representative of the international rallies over the years. If you have high quality and high resolution pictures from the international rallies that you would like to share with us, please get in touch! We are especially interested in group photos and photos of typical WIMA activities. Don't worry about you level of English, spelling or grammar – we will edit and proofread.

Åsa Öhqvist and Sheonagh Ravensdale
Editors of the 70th Anniversary Booklet

asa(at)forza.greynorth.net
sheonagh_ravensdale(at)yahoo.co.uk
you can also find us on Facebook and Messenger

WIMA QUEEN — ABBA

You've a bike, you can drive
Having the time of your life
See these girls, watch that scene
Dig in the WIMA Queen

Friday night and we're driving slow
We're so glad we found Borculo
We have no GPS and driving in our dress
Gave us a little stress

Very upset having a flat tire
Then one of the exhausts caught fire
Driving over a crossing,
without a functioning brake,
Baby, we got the shake
But we were on our way
To see the WIMA Queens
Born to ride and to party here

WIMA Queen, greatest biker we've ever seen
You've a bike, you can drive
Having the time of your life
See these girls, watch that scene
Dig in the WIMA Queen

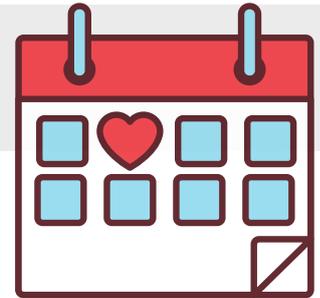
We know we are 4 days late
And we're in an outrageous state
We had to put up make-up,
and had to do our hair
But now we are finally there
And so we meet you here

You are the WIMA Queens
Born to ride and to party here
WIMA Queen, greatest biker we've ever seen
You've a bike, you can drive
Having the time of your life
See these girls, watch that scene
Dig in the WIMA Queen

WIMA INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



SAVE THE DATES IN 2021



May 1st, 2021

International Female Ride Day

May 15th, 2021

5th International WIMA Day



May 21st, 2021

Ride Your Bike To Work Day

June 21st, 2021

World Motorcycle Day



August 2nd - 7th, 2021

WIMA Rally in Grolloo (Netherlands)

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INFO & CONTACT



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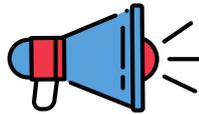
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Are you a writer? Do you have moto-news or travel stories to tell? We are always looking for inspirational content to share with all WIMA members.

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